

Historic, Archive Document

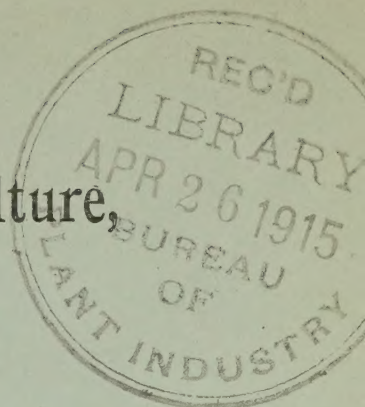
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Forage-Crop Investigations,

WASHINGTON, D. C.



SULLA (*Hedysarum coronarium*).

Sulla is a deep-rooting perennial legume which is grown extensively in the Mediterranean region. It will withstand light frosts, but heavy freezing usually kills it back. It is adapted to deep, calcareous, well-drained soils and requires much the same treatment as alfalfa. If sown under irrigation about three cuttings a season may be obtained, but under ordinary conditions it will not be found so satisfactory a crop as alfalfa.

Considerable difficulty is often experienced in getting a stand. This may be due in part to lack of care in the preparation of the seed bed, to the fact that much of the seed is so hard it will not grow promptly, and partly to lack of inoculation, since sulla is a new crop in most sections of this country. The difficulty of the hard seed may be overcome by rubbing the seed with wet sand between two hard surfaces. It is said that boiling the seed for three to five minutes will soften up the seed coats sufficiently for prompt germination when sown. This, however, should be tested out with only a small quantity of seed at first. The lack of inoculation can be overcome by providing this in some suitable form. Soil from inoculated plants of sulla is not usually available in this country, but pure cultures may ordinarily be obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture.

This crop is still in the experimental stage in this country, and whenever a trial is given it is suggested that seedings under different conditions and at different dates be made, in order to determine which is the best treatment in that particular section. The chief value of sulla lies in its use as a soil-improving crop and as hay. It is also suggested that attempts be made to grow seed locally wherever a successful stand is obtained. The seed can then be flailed out by hand and enough obtained in this way for reseeding an increased acreage the succeeding year.

J. M. WESTGATE, *Agronomist.*

H. S. COE, *Scientific Assistant,*
Clover Investigations.

JANUARY 13, 1915.

